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## New Literature

The most important books listed in these columns will receive notice in the book-review pages.

### OLD TESTAMENT

#### BOOKS

Dictionary of the Bible. Edited by James Hastings, with the Co-operation of John A. Selbie, and with the assistance of John C. Lambert and of Shailer Mathews. New York: Scribners, 1909. Pp. xvi+992. \$5.

This is a notable volume and should meet a hearty welcome. It is the first and only popular Bible dictionary in which modern methods of interpretation prevail throughout. Furthermore, every article is accompanied by the name of the author. The amount of matter in the volume is astonishingly large, a fact due to economy of space and to the use of a rather small type. It can be unreservedly commended to the educated layman and Sunday-school teacher.

GOODSPEED C., AND WELTON, D. M. The Book of Genesis. [An American Commentary on the Old Testament.] Philadelphia, American Baptist Publication Society, 1909. Pp. xxxvii+253.

An exposition of Genesis along the lines of the scholarship of half a century ago. It is a reverent and conservative interpretation. The essential unity and the Mosaic authorship of the Hexateuch are adhered to rigidly. As showing the spirit and point of view the following may be quoted from the defense of the genuineness of Jacob's dying address to his sons, "the arguments adduced in support of these several views (i. e., divisive hypotheses) are of very little weight, and to the consistent believer in revelation, of none at all." The flood is dated at 2468 B. C. Again, "our first parents, to whom the first promise was given, were doubtless informed of the way of salvation by Christ, to whom these bloody sacrifices pointed." The commentary will be useful to those whose theological presuppositions render works from the modern point of view objectionable to them.

#### ARTICLES

BARNES, W. E. The David of the Book of Samuel and the David of the Book of Chronicles. *The Expositor*, January, 1909.

This article points out the contrast between the two pictures of David and shows how the Chronicler's narrative was influenced by his purpose to write a history of Israel's temple and religion. The value of the Chronicler's religious teaching is then emphasized.

STAUDT, C. K. The Contribution of the Hebrews to Civilization. *The Reformed Church Review*, January, 1909, pp. 1-15.

Under this large topic the writer subsumes a few generalizations that are generally accepted as true. The language and thought of the article recall an editorial in the *Biblical World*, Vol. IX, pp. 161 ff.

DHORME, R. P. Les pays bibliques au temps d'El-Amarna. *Revue biblique*, January, 1909, pp. 50-73.

The second installment of a long and careful study of the testimony of the Tel el-Amarna letters to contemporary conditions in Palestine and Syria. This section is devoted to the political relations of the times.

TORREY, C. C. The Chronicler as Editor and as Independent Narrator. *The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures*, January, 1909.

The first portion of an article to be concluded in the April issue. The author credits the Chronicler with a much greater share in the Books of Chronicles than is

generally conceded him and considers his contributions as having slight relation to historical facts.

MÜLLER, W. MAX. The Semitic God of Tahpanhes, Probably an Ancient Relief of Yahveh. *The Open Court*, January, 1909, pp. 1-5.

An attempt to identify the figure of a God on a limestone stele found at Tell Defenneh (Biblical Tahpanhes) with Jehovah. There is not the slightest tangible evidence for the identification. It is not even certain that the God represented is a Palestinian deity.

## NEW TESTAMENT

### BOOKS

OTTO, RUDOLPH. *Life and Ministry of Jesus*, according to the Historical and Critical Method. [Christianity of Today Series.] Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co., 1908. Pp. 85. 75 cents.

This translation of three German lectures gives an interesting and sympathetic sketch of Jesus' ministry and teaching, from a strictly critical point of view.

DOLE, CHARLES F. *What We Know About Jesus*. [Christianity of Today Series.] Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co., 1908. Pp. 89. 75 cents.

This book deals rather with what we think, than with what we know, about Jesus, and that in a decidedly negative way. It is too meager a sketch, however, to perform even this task adequately, and is further largely absorbed in the destructive process.

RUMBALL, EDWIN A. *Jesus and Modern Religion*. [Christianity of Today Series.] Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co., 1908. Pp. 155. 75 cents.

While there is not a little that is good in this book, as a discussion of its theme it fails through seriously underestimating the present religious value of Jesus.

HARNACK, ADOLF. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Translated by J. R. Wilkinson. [Crown Theological Library.] New York: Putnam, 1909. Pp. xliii + 303. \$1.75 net.

Professor Harnack's recent *Apostelgeschichte*, the third in his series of New Testament studies, now appears in attractive English form. It presents a wealth of material relating to Acts, and interestingly exhibits Harnack's notable method of inquiry. The Introduction, especially, is a brilliant and telling piece of historical writing. Harnack seeks a "more assured judgment" as to the degree in which Acts is homogeneous, inquires into the sources and their trustworthiness, and seeks further proof of the identity of the writer of the we-sections with the author of the whole. The translator's failure to supply an index is deplorable.

CLEMEN, C. *Religionsgeschichtliche Erklärung des Neuen Testaments*. Giessen: Töpelmann, 1909. Pp. 301. M. 10.

The relationships of New Testament types of thought and symbolism to non-Jewish religions and philosophies are discriminatingly treated in this important book.

FAIRWEATHER, WILLIAM. *The Background of the Gospels, or Judaism in the Period between the Old and New Testaments*. [Cunningham Lectures, Twentieth Series.] Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1908. Imported by Scribner. Pp. xxx + 456. \$3.

An intelligent and comprehensive treatment of later Judaism, with especial reference to the times of Jesus. Discussions of the Maccabean Struggle, the Herodian Age, the Apocalyptic Movement, and Hellenistic Judaism constitute the bulk of the work. There is a full bibliography, and numerous critical notes and complete indices conclude the volume.